

DELHI SPECIAL

Nath to lead team for East Asia meet in Tokyo

By OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, June 7: Union minister of commerce and industry Kamal Nath will lead a high-level delegation to Tokyo from June 14-16, 2006 to participate in the "East Asia Summit" of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and an "India-Japan Business Summit".

Emphasising the growing importance of the Indo-Japanese bilateral relations, Mr Nath said, "While the presence of skilled manpower and the large and growing domestic Indian market are the major strengths attracting Japanese investors to India, Indian investors are also exploring the Japanese market for the innovative technologies that it offers."

Around 70 Indian IT companies have already established their offices in Japan.

The Indian delegation will give a fresh thrust to the "India Everywhere" campaign at the WEF summit. Over 250 global leaders from business, government and academia will congregate at the forum to shape Asia's political, industry and economic agendas.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Creating a New Agenda for Asian Integration". A key discussion item is integrating India further into East Asia.

Dr Ajay Dua, secretary, department of industrial policy and promotion, ministry of commerce and industry, and other senior officials will accompany Mr Nath.

A delegation of leading industrialists and entrepreneurs will be led by Mr R. Seshasayee, president, CII. The total trade between India and Japan was close to \$5 billion during 2004-2005.